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Serial No.: 10/598,198
Examiner: Vani Gupta
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An ultrasonic probe, comprising:
an ultrasonic device that transmits and receives ultrasound;
a frame that supports the ultrasonic device;
a window that is coupled with the frame so as to surround the ultrasonic device;
and
an ultrasound propagation medium with which a space surrounded by the frame and the window is filled,
wherein the window comprises a resin portion having a property of letting ultrasound pass therethrough and a metal portion, a part of the metal portion being embedded in an inside of the resin portion and another part being exposed to an outside of the resin portion, and
the coupling of the window and the frame is implemented by coupling the part of the metal portion exposed to the outside of the resin portion with the frame.
2. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein a through hole is provided in the metal portion at the part embedded in the inside of the resin portion.
3. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein a convexo-concave structure is provided at the metal portion at the part embedded in the inside of the resin portion.
4. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein a surface-roughening treatment is applied to the metal portion at the part embedded in the inside of the resin portion.

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5. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein a bending portion is provided at the metal portion at the part embedded in the inside of the resin portion.

6. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the window is manufactured by insert molding.

7. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein a male-shaped part and a female-shaped part are provided at coupling faces of the frame and the part of the metal portion exposed to the outside of the resin portion, and the male-shaped part and the female-shaped part are engaged so as to couple the metal portion and the frame.

8. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein a hook is provided at the part of the metal portion exposed to the outside of the resin portion, and the metal portion and the frame are coupled by latching with the hook.

9. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the metal portion is disposed so as to surround at least a part of the ultrasonic device other than an ultrasound transmission/reception face of the ultrasonic device.

10. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the resin portion is made of polymethyl pentene.

11. (Original) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the metal portion is made of stainless steel.

12. (New) The ultrasonic probe according to claim 1, wherein the frame is made of metal.